

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080827

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: PFOR, WG, WB, UK, FR, US, UR

SUBJECT: HEINEMANN LETTER TO PRESIDENT ON HESS

REF: BONN 5521

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM  
PRESIDENT HEINEMANN:

BEGIN QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT:

"ON APRIL 26, 1974, RUDOLF HESS WILL BE EIGHTY YEARS OLD.

HE HAS BEEN IN PRISON NOW FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS. THE

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FRIGHTFUL EVENTS OF THE PAST CANNOT BE REVERSED BUT THEY

REMAIN AS A CONSTANT WARNING TO US. YOU WILL SURELY AGREE WITH ME, THAT SINS COMMITTED AGAINST JUSTICE SHOULD FIND THEIR LIMITS IN THE COMMANDMENT FOR HUMANITY .

"I SHOULD LIKE, THEREFORE, TO BEG YOU TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE TOWARD RENDERING GRACE TO RUDOLF HESS AND FREEING HIM FROM THE PRISON IN SPANDAU.

"ACCEPT MR. PRESIDENT, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

2. BASED ON INDICATION IN REFTTEL, WE ASSUME IDENTICAL LETTERS WERE SENT BY HEINEMANN TO THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND SOVIETS. IT SEEMS TO US IMPORTANT THAT THE THREE WESTERN REPLIES FOLLOW A SIMILAR LINE, ALTHOUGH TEXT NEED NOT BE IDENTICAL. EMBASSY ACCORDINGLY SHOULD MAKE THIS POINT TO UK AND FRENCH AND ASK FOR INDICATION OF HOW THEIR HEADS OF STATE WILL REPLY TO HEINEMANN. EMBASSY MAY TABLE FOLLOWING DRAFT WHICH IS PREFERRED US APPROACH.

BEGIN QUOTE. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

"I SHARE THE VIEW, EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 6, THAT HUMANITARIAN REASONS EXIST FOR RELEASING RUDOLF HESS FROM SPANDAU PRISON. HE IS NOW EIGHTY YEARS OLD AND IN FAILING HEALTH. BASED ON THESE GROUNDS, THE UNITED STATES HAS JOINED WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE IN MANY OFFICIAL APPROACHES TO THE SOVIET UNION SINCE 1964 SEEKING THE REQUIRED QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT FOR MR. HESS' RELEASE.

"THE RESPONSE OF THE SOVIET UNION ALWAYS HAS BEEN UNEQUIVOCALLY NEGATIVE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS CHANGED ITS MIND AND I WOULD THEREFORE QUESTION THE UTILITY OF A FURTHER APPROACH IN MOSCOW.

"I WISH TO ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS READY TO JOIN IN A FURTHER EFFORT IN MR. HESS' BEHALF AT ANY TIME THERE IS AN INDICATION THAT SUCH AN  
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APPROACH HOLDS A REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING.

"SINCERELY YOURS, RICHARD NIXON. END QUOTE.

3. PLEASE REPORT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE UK, AND FRENCH VERSIONS OF REPLY TO HEINEMANN LETTER. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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